

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fibrous sheet containing cotton fibers and at least two different kinds of synthetic fibers,

the at least two kinds of synthetic fibers forming nonwoven fabric,

the cotton fibers entering a fiber network of the nonwoven fabric while being entangled with the fiber network to form a cotton fiber layer on one side of the nonwoven fabric, with part of the cotton fiber layer being in the nonwoven fabric, and

the at least two kinds of the synthetic fibers including a combination of a heat fusible fiber (a) and a heat fusible fiber (b) having a smaller thickness than the heat fusible fiber (a) or a combination of the fiber (a) and a fiber (c) which is not thermally bonded with the heat fusible fiber (a); and

wherein the distance between fibers gradually decreases from the side with the cotton fiber layer being presented to the center of the thickness of the fibrous sheet.

2. (Original) The fibrous sheet according to claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric contains 30% to 70% by weight of the fiber (a) and 30% to 70% by weight of the fiber (b) or the fiber (c).

3. (Original) The fibrous sheet according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the cotton fibers gradually decreases from the side with the cotton fiber layer being presented to the side with no cotton fiber layer being presented.

4. (Original) The fibrous sheet according to claim 1, wherein the fiber (c) is a latent crimping fiber which has been crimped.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The fibrous sheet according to claim 1, wherein the ~~interfiber~~ distance between fibers in the cotton fiber layer is longer than that of a cotton sheet which is made of the same kind of cotton fiber and is produced by hydro-entanglement.

7. (Currently Amended) The fibrous sheet according to claim 1, wherein the fiber (b) or the fiber (c) is localized in the side of said nonwoven fabric with no cotton fiber layer being presented.

8. (Original) A process of producing the fibrous sheet according to claim 1, comprising:
superposing a web of the cotton fibers on a nonwoven fabric containing the fiber (a) and the fiber (b) or (c) and

directing water jets against the web side to have the cotton fibers enter the inside of a fiber network of the nonwoven fabric and entangle with the fiber network and, at the same time, to move the fiber (b) or the fiber (c) to the other side of the nonwoven fabric.

9. (Currently Amended) A fibrous sheet containing cotton fibers and at least two different kinds of synthetic fibers,

the at least two kinds of synthetic fibers form nonwoven fabric,

the cotton fibers entering a fiber network of the nonwoven fabric while being entangled with the fiber network to form a cotton fiber layer on both sides of the nonwoven fabric, with part of each of the cotton fiber layers being in the nonwoven fabric, and

the at least two kinds of the synthetic fibers including a combination of a heat fusible fiber (a) and a heat fusible fiber (b) having a smaller thickness than the heat fusible fiber (a) or a combination of the fiber (a) and a fiber (c) which is not thermally bonded with the heat fusible fiber (a)); and

wherein the distance between fibers gradually decreases from the side with the cotton fiber layer being presented to the center of the thickness of the fibrous sheet.

10. (Original) The fibrous sheet according to claim 9, wherein the amount of the cotton fibers gradually decreases from each of the sides with the cotton fiber layer being presented to the center of the thickness of the fibrous sheet.

11. (Original) An absorbent article comprising a liquid permeable topsheet, a liquid impermeable backsheet, and a liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between the top sheet and the backsheet, wherein the topsheet is the fibrous sheet according to claim 1 or 9.